The Daily Colonist.
(ESTABLISHED 1858)

SECOND NEWS SECTION VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1959

'Warm' Response to Appeal

Thank You, Foster Parents

David Woodsworth, director of the family and children's service, yesterday expressed sincere thanks for the "warm response" to an appeal for more foster parents for children needing care.

The appeal was made in Colonist story earlier this month.

Mr. Woodsworth said 45 new applications had been received, 26 for pre-school-age children and seven for babies.

Only 12 applications had been made, however, for school or teen-age children. Mr. Woodsworth said he would like to "reverse that proportion."

Many people still think of the agency as some sort of a "pool" where they can apply for a specific type of child, he said. In reality, it is seeking a pool or list of persons who would be willing to give a home to a child from any age group as the "need might suddenly arise," he explained.

He said that people are often shocked when asked to take a "problem" teen-ager instead of the child of their choice. But these teen-agers, most of whom come from broken homes, need all the love and help they can get.

Mr. Woodsworth also thanked the many clubs and PTA organizations who asked for speakers on the subject, and the members of the Victoria and Arbutus Toastmistress Clubs who took care of the request for speakers.

We'll Donate One-Third Cost Of Auditorium, Says Bennett

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Holding A Carrot —Edgelow

Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow last night accused Premier Bennett of "holding out a carrot" of federal aid for construction of an auditorium for Victoria.

"I think the premier has always been sincere in wanting to see Victoria get an auditorium," said Ald. Edgelow. "But there is no sense in holding out some sort of carrot when he knows the federal government would never start building auditoriums all over Canada."

MATCHING GRANTS

Premier Bennett told the legislature yesterday the provincial government will pay one-third of the cost of a civic auditorium if the federal government and the city of Victoria will pay matching one-third grants.

"We have a similar arrangement with Vancouver," the premier said.

However, Vancouver city clerk Ron Thompson told The Daily Colonist by phone last night that no federal or provincial grants were received for the $4,500,000 civic auditorium which is nearing completion there.

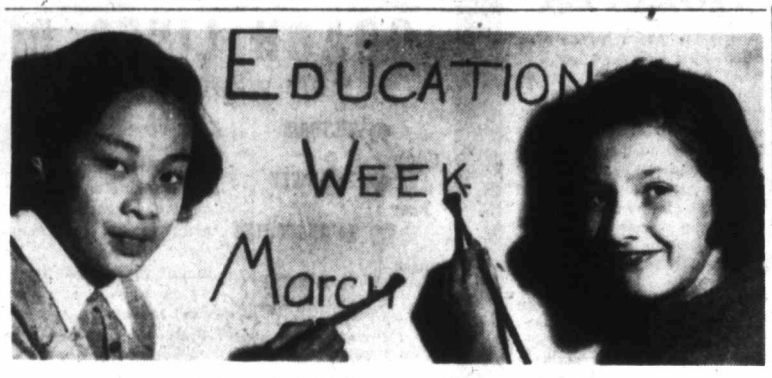
The bulk of the money was raised by sale of bonds, and a small amount was taken out of surplus revenue funds. The project was part of the city's last five-year-plan.

SEEMED PUZZLED

Ald. Edgelow said he didn't see what bearing a civic auditorium for Victoria or any other city had on the federal government. He seemed puzzled by the premier's statement.

"I want to say this—Premier Bennett has always shown willingness to co-operate and help us with an auditorium and he should be commended for this," he said.

Ald. Edgelow is chairman of a trust committee holding $12,500 turned over by the Greater Victoria Centennial Committee for construction of an auditorium.



School Welcome Next Week

Putting final touches to poster welcoming parents and friends to Education Week open house in Victoria area schools next week are North Ward School pupils Maureen Chan, 9, of 720 Pembroke, and Genevieve Thiebaut, 11, of 850 Cormorant.—(Colonist photo)

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Hinges On City Ottawa

The provincial government will pay one-third the cost of a civic auditorium for Victoria if the federal government and city of Victoria will pay matching one-third grants, Premier Bennett said yesterday.

He was answering a challenge made in the legislature by Donald Smith (SC, Victoria), who pointed out the premier once said the government would be prepared to match a portion of the costs of an auditorium.

"We want to know if the offer is still good, how long it is good for, and how much it is good for?" Mr. Smith said.

NOT MUCH FAITH

George Gregory (Lib., Victoria) told the premier he didn't have much faith in the federal government now and asked if the premier would pay one-third the cost of an auditorium if Victoria paid two-thirds.

"No. We have a similar arrangement with Vancouver. I suggest you get working on your federal members," the premier said.

FOR SOME TIME

"Well, I guess we won't see our auditorium for some time," Mr. Gregory said.

Mr. Smith indicated to the premier that the offer was only a starting point for bargaining with the provincial government.

"Oh no! Oh no!" said the premier.

ORIGINAL OFFER

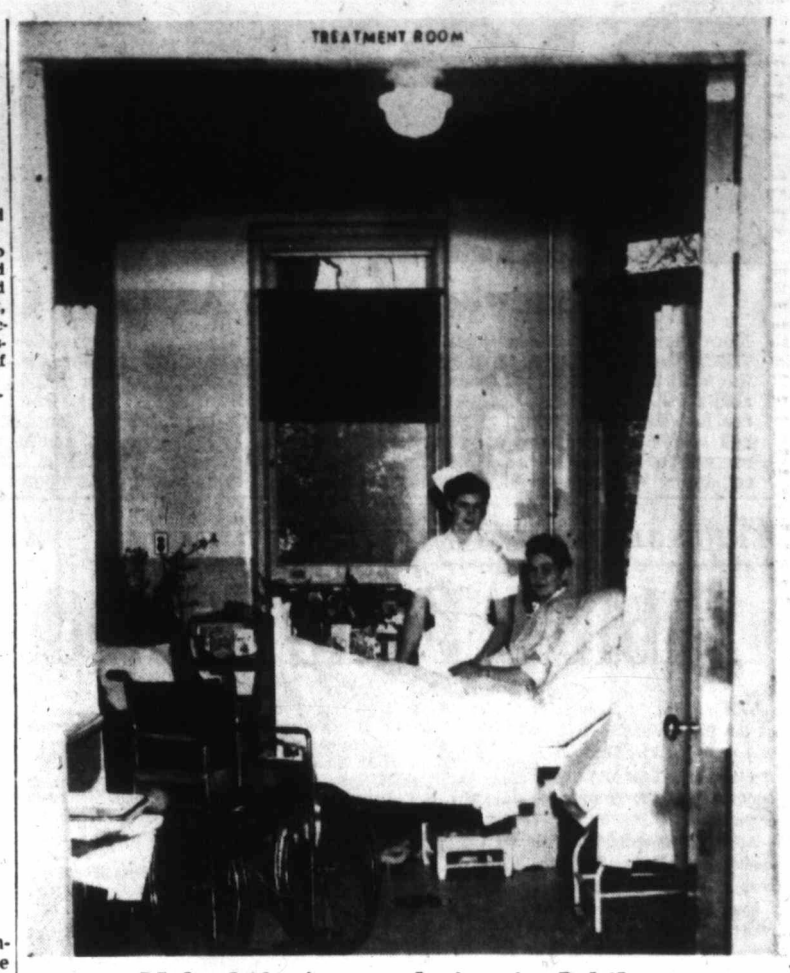
The premier pointed out that the original offer to share in construction of a civic auditorium for Victoria was made before the Capital District Improvement Commission was formed.

He pointed to the beautification work by that commission, the new Government House and the planned new courthouse.

NEW BASE

In answer to another question by Mr. Smith, the premier said the government is studying a new base for the $28 home owners grant and would "advise the House sometime soon, not this session."

That indicated that a home owners grant increase will be one of the election planks of the Social Credit government when the premier gets around to calling a general election.



Makeshift Accomodation in Jubilee

Overcrowding at Royal Jubilee Hospital means patients must be put in makeshift accommodation. Mrs. Edna Dawson, above, is being cared for by Nurse Barbara Singleton in a room normally used for giving treatments to patients from nearby wards. A public drive to raise $410,000 towards the cost of a new wing starts on March 16. Government grants provide another $2,000,000. — (Colonist photo)

I Failed to Live 31 Days on $55

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Reporter Lost Six Pounds

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By TED SHACKLEFORD

Yesterday was the last day of the 31-day month I was assigned to live on $55 and . . . I failed.

In actual cash I had $5.90 left after I bought a pound of sausages which I ate for lunch and dinner. To that must be added $3.50 represented by food I had left over —a quarter of a jar of coffee, two-thirds of a pound of tea, two-thirds of a two-pound bag of flour, salt, pepper, a small tin of tomato paste, a 48-ounce tin of tomato juice, and so on.

THEORETICAL CREDIT

This gives me a theoretical credit total of $9.40.

On the debit side, first of all, is $8 for the gas I used to heat my room. I didn't heat the room very much or very often but it is a large room and a bare one.

At the start I allowed for razor blades, but forgot to allow for shaving soap or toothpaste—about 50 cents.

I wore drip-dry shirts which need no ironing and did other laundry in a hand basin, but there must be some allowance made for laundry.

And then there is footwear, dry cleaning, occasional food luxuries which I managed to forego for a month, entertainment and minor drugstore needs.

So, taking all the factors into account, I failed to live within the $55.

ANOTHER ITEM

And there is another item—I was able to live on the food I ate for a month, but I don't know if I could keep my health by eating the same food for much longer. I lost six pounds in the month—all in the last two weeks.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford was assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

Of course, I am a much better cook now than I was a month ago—I don't burn much anymore — and I have more of an idea about prices and food values.

DO WHAT THEY COULD

A number of individuals have offered to help pensioners in one way or another during this assignment but yesterday a representative of a women's institute phoned and said members would like to do what they could.

"One of the disadvantages of the old-age pensioner is in having to buy in small quantities. This adds to the cost of living.

Couldn't some welfare agency establish a depot that can buy in large quantities and break it down into small amounts, at cost price? I have in mind only staple items, including perhaps cold roast beef, a welcome change from the eternal hamburger. Even cough medicines and liniments which so many older persons need could be established.

SURPLUS FOOD

"What about the surplus food the government is disposing of abroad at a loss? Couldn't some of this be diverted to non-profit organizations such as I have in mind?"

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"I wonder how you would have fared if two of you had been given the same amount and told to pool your resources? Which leads to the thought of what it would be like for them if two, three or four pensioners went in together and pooled their cheques.

It has been telephone calls and letters like that which have made this month worthwhile.

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Some more of the comments from letters:

"What a comfort it would be if anyone who has discarded their hot water bottles for the more modern heating pads, if they would hand them over to Mrs. Harper at the free food stall for distribution. Old folks' circulation is so poor that when the feet are cold their aches are increased tenfold."

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"If two, three or four pensioners with $75 a month went together they might even have enough for the monthly payments on a TV."

British-Israel Branch Sets Prayer Service

Victoria branch of the British-Israel World Federation will hold a service of prayer, with a short address, Monday at 8 p.m. in the Newstead Hall.

Sculpture Discssion

Mr. Ian McNairn, professor of the UBC fine arts department will discuss the "Sources of Modern Sculpture" at 8.15 p.m. Monday in the Victoria College Auditorium.

Seen in Passing

Mrs. Rose Pethick looking up a telephone number. (She is secretary to **George Masters,** administrator of Royal Jubilee Hospital. Her husband **Robert** works for the government. Her hobbies are raising canaries, music and swimming) . . . **Tom Miller** putting in a request for a picture . . . **Lee Murchie** weighing out coffee and talking about foster babies . . . **Const. Gordon Irvine** of the Colwood RCMP detachment preparing to move Monday to his new post at Duncan . . . **Const. W. A. MacKenzie** of the same detachment off to Terrace for more highway patrol work.

MRS. ROSE PETHICK

Peak Is Past, Flu Is Fleeing

The onslaught of the cold-like flu or the flu-like cold on Victorians is easing off, medical health officer Dr. Elizabeth Mahaffy said yesterday.

"It's pretty well on the wane," Dr. Mahaffy reported. "As of yesterday, most of the schools were back to normal."

Peak of the onslaught, she said, appeared to have come between Feb. 16 and 18, when more than 500 and perhaps 600 schoolchildren, of a Victoria-Esquimalt school population of 11,000, were absent in addition to the normal number of absentees from other causes.

Dr. Mahaffy thought the flu had fairly well run its course among adults, too.

"The teachers had their turns and are back now," she said.

Ostler Named to Bench For Indefinite Period

The provincial cabinet yesterday appointed William Ostler acting police magistrate for an indefinite period of time.

He was already a stipendiary magistrate and a deputy police magistrate for Greater Victoria municipalities.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner indicated his department is still seeking a lawyer to fill the shoes of Magistrate H. C. Hall, who retires today.

'Nazi' Nasty Name

Irvine Corbett (SC, Yale) objected in the legislature yesterday to university students calling the premier names like "monster . . . fascist . . . gang of Nazis" and saying they "feared reprisals."

"That is a very small minority of them," Premier Bennett smiled.

Around the Island

Deadlock in Duncan On Future of Park

DUNCAN —Representatives of the City of Duncan, and members of the Community Centre Association were deadlocked following a meeting to decide the future of Pioneer Park, a community recreation area established by the association.

The city council believes the association should still administer the grounds, even though title has been vested in the city.

Association members insisted the city should appoint a parks board to control the park, while city aldermen, headed by Mayor J. T. Dobson, refused to appoint such a board because it was feared "that the public might lose interest once the grounds fall entirely into our hands."

An interim steering committee was set up to call a further meeting in the near future, when a determined effort will be made to find a final answer to the fate of the park.

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CAMPBELL RIVER — RCMP here are investigating the damaging of special heavy equipment at the recently-started Tyee Plaza waterfront development here, part of the extensive overall waterfront improvement for this village.

Guy Lindsay, superintendent of construction for the contractors, Marwell Construction, reported a giant shovel just moved to the job had been tampered with. He said an attempt had been made to push the shovel by means of a tractor on to rock-weighing scales on the job.

Damage to the shovel was estimated at $1,000. The motor of the tractor was still running when workmen arrived on the job.

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UCLUELET — Residents of Ucluelet-Tofino area are attending the first aid classes held each Thursday evening at the Ucluelet-Tofino high school and Monday evenings at Tofino General Hospital. Members of the Tofino volunteer fire department and the crew of the Tofino lifeboat are among those attending the two-month course.

Instructors are Gordon V. Price and Mrs. William Saxton, R.N.

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NANAIMO — Rotarians played host to more than 40 "old timers" at lunch, yesterday. Oldest guest was George Rowland, 97.

New president of Nanaimo Rotary Club is William Lupton. He succeeds Harry Ciccone.

PORT ALBERNI—"The financial plight of the hospital is the most serious problem confronting the board each month," Ald. Norman Odgers, chairman of West Coast General Hospital board told delegates to the annual hospital society meeting, Thursday.

Head of the finance committee, E. F. Duncan, reported a deficit of $30,029 after taking into account a special grant of $3,000 for drugs and medical supplies and $3,403 standby rate adjustment. He explained that the hospital's working capital had decreased $34,322 in the past four years.

"This means that we are now carrying on hospital business with assets which should be set aside for special purposes," he said.

A total of 82 accredited delegates, representing various organizations and public bodies in the district, attended the meeting.

Application will be made to the provincial government for an increase in per diem rate paid to the hospital for operating expenses.

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NANAIMO— J. Stewart and Sons of Victoria submitted a low bid among six tendered for a four-room addition on Woodlands Junior High school. The bid of $49,819 will be considered by school trustees at their next meeting.

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MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd. announced yesterday the purchase of four specially designed "Trakloader" machines for yarding logs out of the woods and loading them on trucks in one operation.

The cost of $330,000 is the biggest single item in the company's 1959 spending program for new logging equipment and facilities, company official John Hemmingsen said.

The giant machines will be put to work at the Franklin River and Sproat Lake Divisions, both near Port Alberni and the Copper Canyon Division near Chemainus.

"We are very hopeful that these machines will help reduce seasonal unemployment both in summer and winter," Mr. Hemmingsen said.

"In the summer, the big problem is the danger of starting a fire when lines rub on something and send sparks flying into the dry slash. On these machines, we can eliminate friction from draglines and operate safely. And in winter, the Trakloader is set up to work in snow conditions."

DUNCAN—A brief on education, prepared by trustee Mrs. Isabel L. Tarlton, received the unanimous support of the school board of district 65, (Cowichan), for presentation to the royal commission on education.

In her brief Mrs. Tarlton recommends a termination course at the Grade Nine level for those students who can not grasp the higher levels of education, more written tests in school instead of school study periods, more homework, and more time on sciences.

"The idea of the progressive idealist that 'schooling must be fun' has in many cases become confused with the idea that 'schooling must be easy,' and this is an unfortunate error, Mrs. Tarlton says.

"Keen minds are allowed to drift and dawdle, and there has been a disappearance of any pride in academic achievement.

"We agree that success in life depends to a large extent on ability and hard work, yet in our schools we deny our young people the training and discipline which healthy competition gives.

"In a world which is far more complex than it was even a short generation ago, young people starting out must be prepared to grapple with problems that would have baffled their fathers.

"Unless their minds have been trained to deal with the intricacies of modern civilization we are in danger of being overwhelmed by the fruits of our scientific endeavors."

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ERRINGTON — Ten plays will be presented at the Junior Drama Festival here, with competing groups coming from Ladysmith, Yellow Point, Coombs, Qualicum Beach, Lantzville, Nanaimo, Parksville and Errington.

Adjudicator will be Alex Hood of New Westminster, and the festival dates are March 19, 20 and 21.

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PARKSVILLE — The first game of the finals for the Industrial Hockey League will be held Sunday at Nanaimo when the local Arrowsmith Rangers will meet Lake Cowichan in a best of three series. The game will get underway at 10.30 a.m.

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NANAIMO—Nanaimo General Hospital will show a surplus for 1958-59 for the first time since 1950, administrator Gordon Frith said Friday. He said it will be sufficient to wipe out a revenue fund deficit of $3,485.